

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1- 5 (cancelled)

6. **(currently amended)** The bone stabilizing system of claim 29 [[1]], wherein the screws are fixed to the plate and the bone holes with an adhesive material.

Claims 7-11 (cancelled)

12. **(currently amended)** The bone stabilizing system of claim 29 [[1]], wherein the screws have self-tapping screw threads.

13. **(cancelled)**

14. **(currently amended)** A bone stabilizing method, using plates with holes and bone screws for the purpose of fixing one bone segment with respect to one or more other bone segments or implants within a bone column comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing the system components of claim 29 [[4]];
- (b) machining holes in the bone segments for the purpose of retaining the engagement of the bone screws and retaining fixation of the plate to the bones, and
- (c) placing the screws, with a shank portion and a head portion configured and sized to be affixed by an interference fit within the plate hole and the bone.

Claims 15-28. (cancelled)

29. **(previously presented)** A system for stabilizing a first bone segment within a bone column relative to a second bone segment in the bone column, the stabilizing system comprising:

a plurality of bone screws, each having a head portion at a first end thereof and a threaded shank portion at a second end thereof, with an unthreaded shank portion therebetween; and

a rigidizing plate, with a plurality of tapered holes corresponding to the plurality of bone screws, each hole being sized and configured for making a locking fit with a first portion of the unthreaded shank portion of the bone screw received therein, the plate sized to position at least two holes for screw placement therethrough into the first bone segment and at least two holes for screw placement therethrough into the second bone segment;

wherein a second portion of the unthreaded shank portion passes through the plate hole and extends into the bone segment when the threaded shank portion is engaged into the bone segment.

30. **(new)** The stabilizing system of claim 1, wherein:

a radial shoulder delineates the head portion from the first unthreaded shank portion.